



Safety Instruction

Open Flame Safety Guidelines

Introduction

Fires caused by candles and open flames present a considerable risk on the Oregon State campus. Candles, burning incense, Bunsen burners, and other open flame devices, when used incorrectly or left unattended, can ignite combustible materials and result in personal injury, destruction of property and even loss of life.

Purpose and Policy Statement

As a means of fire prevention, and in accordance with the Oregon Fire Code 308, this policy is intended to eliminate a potential open flame fires impacting students, faculty, staff and guests of Oregon State University.

The intent of this directive is to reduce the potential fire hazard and the consequential risk of loss of property and/or life on all university owned, operated or leased facilities, or in association with university-sponsored events or functions, except as defined by this policy. All members of the University community and other visitors to campus are expected to comply with this Policy to ensure the safety of University property, personal property, and individual health and safety.

Scope and Definitions

This Policy applies to all open flame activities on University property, whether that person in possession of the open flame or responsible for any open flame being used by a student, employee, or non-affiliate. This directive is not intended to restrict the use of open flame devices in controlled settings such as laboratories or food service where approved open flame appliances are used in daily activities as part of the organizations required functions. Hot works such as welding, cutting and brazing, etc. is managed under the University's Hot Works permit program.

Open Flame: Any candles, torches, burners or other device which, when used, produces a visible flame capable of igniting ordinary combustible material.

Permissible Conditions

Situations and/or events that call for the use of open flame devices can be reviewed under special circumstances through a Corvallis Fire Code permit process. For questions, or to obtain a Corvallis Fire Code Permit, please contact OSU Fire Marshal.

Any use of open flame on any University property shall be regulated as follows:

Open Flame Candles and incense: Are prohibited in offices, laboratories, classrooms, and all other campus spaces with the exception of religious and public assembly venues which require a Corvallis Fire Code Permit. Battery powered candles are allowed.

➤ Outdoor cooking:

- In approved University-provided grills in designated University locations with a permanent, fixed grill. Must be located at least 10 feet away from any structure.
- As allowed by the OSU Athletics Reser Stadium tailgating procedures

Food preparation: Allowed for approved campus food service organizations and others as approved by OSU.

Hot work permit program: Welding, cutting, brazing and other “hot work” is managed under the EH&S Hot Work Permit Program. No hot work shall be performed on campus without the required approval and permit. Consult with EH&S for hot work requirements.

Classroom or laboratory: Fire may be used in the course of classroom and laboratory exercises for purposes of instruction or research when conducted under the supervision of the instructor or supervising PI for class instruction, experiment and research. For educational and research purposes small listed (UL) and approved devices may be used in accordance with manufacturer’s directions and within the confines of an approved fume hood or within an area providing adequate clearance from combustible material or ignitable liquids. Homemade or modified open flame devices shall not be used without the approval of the campus fire marshal.

Outdoor Recreational Fires (e.g. campfires): May occur as part of university-sponsored events as long as they comply with any local regulatory authority, and are pre-approved by the campus fire marshal. Recreational fires require a Corvallis Fire Code Permit. For questions please contact OSU Fire Marshal.

Religious and cultural events: Candles or other open flames may be used by religious, cultural, social and fraternal groups and events. A Corvallis Fire Code Permit is required unless the candles have been pre-approved and valid documentation is on-hand.

Outside vigil and demonstration candles: Can be checked out from the Memorial Union (MU) by contacting the MU Reservations Office. Open flame torches are not permitted on campus unless approved by the OSU Fire Marshal.

Pyrotechnic devices such as fireworks & Sky Lanterns, etc.: Commercial fireworks displays require permits from the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and the Corvallis Fire Department. “Oregon legal” store bought fireworks are not permitted on campus. Sky Lanterns are prohibited on any OSU property.

Questions/Concerns:

Certain uses of fire may be subject to criminal prosecution.

To report an open flame in violation of this Policy, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 541-737-7000. In an emergency or where open flame appears to present a threat to life or property, call 9-1-1.

EH&S Office Phone: 541-737-2273

Website: ehs.oregonstate.edu